

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 129447

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, YO

SUBJECT: TITO RELIEVES SECURITY ADVISOR GENERAL MISKOVIC

REF: NATO 3077; BELGRADE 2819, 2788, 2917

1. IN POLAD'S DISCUSSION YOU MAY DRAW UPON FOLLOWING INR ASSESSMENT.

2. REPORTS FROM BELGRADE AND BEHAVIOR OF YUGOSLAV MEDIA INDICATE THAT GENERAL IVAN MISKOVIC HAS BEEN RELIEVED OF POSTS OF STATE SECURITY ADVISOR TO STATE PRESIDENCY AND AS SECRETARY OF STATE SECURITY COUNCIL. MISKOVIC, THE MOST INFLUENTIAL MAN IN STATE SECURITY ESTABLISHMENT, WHOSE POSITION SEEMED IMPREGNABLE BECAUSE OF CLOSE TIES TO TITO, ALLEGEDLY LOST TITO'S CONFIDENCE AND WAS PENSIONED OFF OSTENSIBLY BECAUSE OF ILL HEALTH. ACTION REPORTEDLY TAKEN
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AT JUNE 12 ENLARGED SESSION OF PARTY EXECUTIVE BUREAU PRE-

SIDED OVER BY TITO. THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT, BUT A YUGOSLAV OFFICIAL REPORTEDLY CONFIRMED THE OUSTER TO A WESTERN JOURNALIST.

3. SUBSEQUENT RUMORS IN BELGRADE THAT ASSISTANT DEFENSE SECRETARY GENERAL IVAN DOLNICAR, ONE OF THREE GENERALS ON PARTY PRESIDUM, HAD ALSO BEEN REMOVED FROM POST OF PARALLEL POWER, THAT OF SECRETARY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE COUNCIL OF STATE PRESIDENCY, APPEAR UNFOUNDED SINCE BELGRADE

TELEVISION SHOWED HIM ATTENDING THE MEETING OF STATE PRESIDENCY ON JUNE 25. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER DOLNICAR WILL MAKE AN APPEARANCE AT OUR JULY 6 INDEPENDENCE DAY RECEPTION.

4. ACCORDING TO THE BELGRADE RUMOR MILL, TITO BECAME DISENCHANTED WITH MISKOVIC'S ASSESSMENTS OF THE POLITICAL SITUATION AND INTERFERENCE IN POLITICS, EXAGGERATING AMOUNT OF SUBVERSION, AND GOING TOO FAR IN URGING CAMPAIGN AGAINST LIBERALS AND OTHER DISSIDENTS, PERHAPS EVEN MEASURES TO RESTORE "FIRM HAND" ORDER, ESCHEWED BY TITO. MISKOVIC APPEARS TO HAVE HAD ROLE IN CONDUCTING VIGILANCE CAMPAIGN LAST WINTER AND SPRING, IN MANNER WHICH CAUSED SOME IRRITATION TO TIES WITH GOOD FRIENDS, INCLUDING THE US, ITALY, AND AUSTRIA.

5. ON BALANCE, IT APPEARS THAT REMOVAL OF MISKOVIC WILL ENHANCE FURTHER THE AUTHORITY OF CENTRAL PARTY LEADERSHIP (EXECUTIVE BUREAU), ESPECIALLY SECRETARY STANE DOLANC. IT WAS PROBABLY NOT COINCIDENTAL THAT TITO LET DOLANC RUN FOURTH PARTY CONFERENCE (MAY 10-11) AND BE RE-ELECTED SECRETARY JUST AFTER MISKOVIC APPARENTLY BEGAN HIS WAY DOWN (I.E., AFTER APRIL 5 STATE PRESIDENCY SESSION WHICH MADE HIM SECURITY ADVISOR TO STATE PRESIDENCY INSTEAD OF TO TITO AND HIS DISAPPEARANCE FROM PUBLIC NOTICE AFTER APRIL 20.)

6. THE JUNE 12 EXECUTIVE BUREAU SESSION, WHICH RETIRED MISKOVIC, WAS APPARENTLY USED AS A LANDMARK OCCASION BY TITO AND HIS CHIEF LIEUTENANT DOLANC FOR THE PARTY TAKE-CONFIDENTIAL

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OVER FROM MISKOVIC OF THE DIRECTION OF THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS ORGANS, INCLUDING THE STATE SECURITY SERVICE (SDB), TO RID IT OF ABUSES, UPGRADE ITS STATUS, CONTINUE ITS REFORM (INITIATED AFTER RANKOVIC'S FALL IN 1966), AND KEEP IT FROM BECOMING A "STATE WITHIN THE STATE." THAT PARTY IS TO BE IN CHARGE WAS REFLECTED IN THE FACT IT WAS DOLANC WHO ON JUNE 18 BRIEFED AN IMPORTANT MEETING OF COMMUNISTS IN LEADING INTERNAL AFFAIRS POSTS FROM ALL OVER YUGOSLAVIA

ON IMPLEMENTATION OF DIRECTIVES SET DOWN AT ENLARGED
EXECUTIVE BUREAU SESSION. RUSH

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